**Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, 2014**

**Organic Summer Squash – Irrigated – Wholesale Market – 20 lb Case**

**Budget based on 1 acre of summer squash on a 10 acre mixed organic vegetable farm.**

**Estimated Costs and Returns Per Acre.**

UNIT QUANTITY $/UNIT TOTAL $/ACRE YOUR FARM

**RECEIPTS**

1. Summer Squash 20 lb Case 250 20 5,000 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2. VARIABLE COSTS**

3. Organic certification Acre 1 80 80 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Seed Lbs. 2 56 112 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Compost Ton 1 40 40 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Cover Crop Acre 1 80 80 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Lime (prorated) Ton 0.33 40 13 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Organic Pest Sprays Oz. 568 0.70 389 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Fuel Gal 14 4.00 56 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 10.Paper case Each 250 1.30 325 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 11. Labor Hrs. 220 10 2200 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 12. Irrigation supplies Acre 1 1070 1070 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 13. Plastic Mulch Acre 1 200 200 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 14. Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total Variable Costs 4,565

**15. FIXED COSTS**

16. Machine & Equip. Acre 1 243 243 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

17. Irrigation Acre 1 80 80 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

18. Land Charge Acre 1 50 50 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total Fixed Costs 373 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL COSTS** **4,769**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN ABOVE TOTAL VARIABLE COSTS**  **435**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN ABOVE TOTAL COSTS 62** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES – Budget estimates for planning only.**

1. Yield estimate derived from Clemson Extension, Mississippi State University and University of Georgia enterprise budgets. Price taken from Carolina Farm Stewardship Assoc. (CFSA) Organic Produce Marketing Survey, 2013.

2. Variable costs are those costs that a farmer incurs because he/she decided to grow this specific crop.

3. Average organic certification costs from USDA Farm Services Administration.

4. Average of organic seed prices found in Internet search.

5. Average prices for 1 ton of compost, chicken litter, or manure found in Internet search.

6. Average of various cover crop seed and planting costs. Estimated from farmer interviews, and Mississippi State University enterprise budgets, 2013.

7. Equals 1 ton of lime per acre every 3 years. Price from Internet search.

8. Used only when mechanical and physical methods are ineffective. Application rates and weighted average price for PyGanic, Sonata & Cueve (copper) taken from 2013 CFSA pest control worksheets.

9. Mississippi State University, Traditional Vegetables 2013 planning budgets.

10. Price estimate from Internet search of various suppliers.

11. Labor hour estimates derived from Mississippi State University 2013 enterprise budgets.

12. Irrigation supplies include 1.5 rolls of drip tape and 6 acre inches of rural water costs. Derived from Mississippi State University 2013 enterprise budgets.

13. Plastic Mulch

14. Purposely left blank for farmer to fill in other costs for that specific farm.

15. Fixed costs are costs that a farmer incurs whether or not a crop is grown.

16. See table below.

17. Annual fixed costs for irrigation set up.

18. Average of farm rental values for North and South Carolina. Estimated from USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service 2010 published crop land to rents.

Machinery and Equipment Costs\*

Useful

Purchase Salvage Life Acres Repair & maint. Total\*

Item Price Value Yrs. Used/Yr $/Ac $/Ac

Tractor 17,000 4,000 20 10 3.00 68

Chisel plow 2,500 600 15 10 0.30 13

Planter-1 row 2,300 500 20 4 5.50 28

Pest. Sprayer 9,400 1,900 20 10 9.50 47

Trailer 1,100 200 20 10 0.10 5

Disk 4,450 900 15 10 0.20 24

Man. Spread 3,000 1,500 20 10 0.20 8

Bed Shaper 2,500 600 20 5 1.50 21

200 Buckets 1,000 0 5 7 0 29

Total$ /Ac. = 243

\*Estimates derived from Mississippi State University, Traditional Vegetables 2013 Planning Budgets; Why Cows Need Names, and More Secrets of Amish Farms, Randy James, Kent State University Press, 2013 and Internet searches of various machinery suppliers.

\*\*Total $/Ac. = Purchase Price – Salvage Value/ Useful Life/Acres Used + Repair & Maintenance.

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